

2002 HUMAN BEHAVIOR COURSE BLOCK ONE CHALLENGES

3 QUESTIONS CHALLENGED

5 TOTAL CHALLENGES

0 CHANGES TO THE ANSWER KEY

Question 23.

Question and Answer Key Answer.

While serving as the psychiatrist on call, you are summoned to see a 27-year-old man who struck one of the emergency room staff. Which of the following is the best response?

- A. Wait to see the patient until he is restrained and the police are present.
- B. **XX** Speak to the patient in a calm and nonjudgmental manner.
- C. See the patient alone to deescalate the situation.
- D. Take charge of the situation so that the staff and the patient feel safe.
- E. Initiate a careful medical workup, since virtually all violence is associated with either medical or mental illness.

Challenges.

1. Answer listed was B but I chose D: Take charge of the situation so that the staff and patient feel safe. In our required reading, pg 212 of Hales, on Interviewing the Violent Patient, it says: "The key factor in the approach to violent patients is safety. The psychiatrist works with available staff to maintain the safety of the patient, the staff, and other patients. At no time should the psychiatrist resort to individual heroics to try and subdue a violent patient." I chose D as the best answer because I interpreted it to reflect the level of responsibility of the psychiatrist (not as any form of physical 'heroic' "take charge" as perhaps the question was written to mean? ambiguous...). While it is true that verbal communication in a calm manner is the first step that should be taken, resorting to restraints afterwards when the patient continues to exhibit violent behavior needs to be still an option, which is why I ruled out answer B. I have worked with violent psychiatric patients in the past, and in all cases, this was the protocol; and in all, the psychiatrist was very much a member of the staff team, but took a leadership role in assuming responsibility for the safety of others.
2. Question 23 is the 27 year old man in the emergency room who struck one of the staff. The person who gave that lecture (I think it was Dr. Lacy) was emphatic that the first rule of an interview is to protect yourself, so you do not become a casualty also. Before the violence begins you can talk firmly, but once it starts the patient must be restrained. The only answer that protects the psychiatrist is A.

Dr. Engel Response. Correct answer is B. Option A is not appropriate because you should not wait until police are present (otherwise, restraint is a viable if not the best immediate option). Option C is not appropriate because one should not be alone with a patient who has just struck anyone, no matter how confident you are in your skills. Option D is not appropriate because the psychiatrist should not "take charge" so much as he or she should coordinate with other staff so they respond as a team to the patient. E is clearly wrong because most violence has little to do with medical status of the patient (though sometimes in an elderly individual without a history of violence it may be a very likely cause). Option B is correct since, as the first challenger suggests, "...it is true that verbal communication in a calm manner is the first step that should be taken."

Question 28.Question and Answer Key Answer.

A 43-year-old woman develops influenza and never recovers, developing overwhelming fatigue and depression that persists for years. Which of the following is TRUE?

- A. **XX** Influenza acted as a biological precipitant of the woman's chronic depression.
- B. Influenza is acting as a biological perpetuator of the woman's depression.
- C. Influenza is a common psychosocial precipitant of depression.
- D. All of the above.
- E. None of the above.

Challenges.

1. Answer listed was A, I chose D: All of the above. I actually did not think the correct answer was listed--if I had to make up the test, I would have written an answer "A & B". I chose D only because I did not see that option, and I thought both A and B were correct. Since this lady has had both influenza and depression concurrently for many years, influenza is acting as both a precipitant and a perpetuator of her depression.
2. Question 28 is a 43 year old woman who "develops influenza and never recovers." I have never heard of this, but since it is in the description I have to assume this patient has a chronic case of influenza. This would give her fatigue. This fatigue would perpetuate her depression. Since A and B are both true, D is the best answer.

Dr. Engel Response. Correct answer is A. This question assumes that you know that influenza is a self-limited disease that remits over the course of days (ruling out the possibility that it represents a perpetuator of depression). Since influenza doesn't last for years, it appears that it has precipitated persistent depression (fatigue is a symptom of depression).

Question 29.Question and Answer Key Answer.

What is the primary purpose of DSM-IV diagnostic system?

- A. Facilitating communication between clinicians.
- B. **XX** Improving patient health.
- C. Deciding whether an individual is responsible for his or her own behavior.
- D. Deciding if a patient is mentally ill.
- E. All of the above.

Challenges.

1. Answer listed was B, I chose E: All of the above.

Dr. Engel Response. Correct answer is B. DSM-IV is frequently used for all of the purposes listed in answers A through D. The primary purpose of DSM-IV, however, is to improve health.